

Pages 2-8 contain the claims, as amended and deleted.

Page 9 contains a response to the Examiner's remarks.

In the claims:

All pending claims are set forth here, in a form corresponding to the application as originally filed. Cancel claims 6, 17, 20 and 23-42. Amend claims 1, 12, 16 and 22 to read as follows. Add new claims 43-44, which read as follows

1 (currently amended). A system for detecting unauthorized movement of a communications/meter device, the system comprising:

at least one device attachment mechanism, having a selected attachment direction, that attaches a communications/meter device to a selected attachment site;

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cont.  
a magnetic field source, associated with the attachment mechanism, that provides a first magnetic field with a first field direction and a second magnetic field with a second magnetic field direction when the attachment mechanism is in a first selected position and in a second selected position, respectively;

a field-activated magnetic switch, positioned adjacent to the attachment mechanism and arranged so that, when the first magnetic field is applied to the switch, the switch is in a first switch state, and when the second magnetic field is applied to the switch, the switch is in a second switch state, distinct from the first switch state; and

[a switch sensor, connected to and sensing the state of the switch, that generates a selected alarm signal when the switch is not in the first switch state]

an electrical current source, connected to the field-activated magnetic switch at a first selected location, that provides a current through the switch;

an electrical current sensor, connected to the field-activated magnetic switch at a second selected location, that senses a level of current through the switch; and

an alarm, coupled to the current sensor, that generates a selected alarm signal when the switch is not in the first switch state, upon the sensed level of current in the current sensor.

2 (original). The system of claim 1, further comprising a signal transmitter, associated with said communications device, that transmits a selected signal when said field-activated magnetic switch is not in said first switch state.

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cont.  
3 (original). The system of claim 1, wherein said second position of said attachment mechanism is selected from the group of positions consisting of: (i) rotation of said attachment mechanism about said attachment direction by at least a selected threshold angle, and (ii) translation of said attachment mechanism in said attachment direction by at least a threshold distance.

4 (original). The system of claim 1, wherein said attachment mechanism at said first position provides a magnetic field projected in a selected sensing direction, with a projected field magnitude that is at least equal to a selected magnitude threshold.

5 (original). The system of claim 1, wherein said attachment mechanism at

said first position provides a magnetic field projected in said selected sensing direction, with a projected field magnitude that is less than said selected magnitude threshold.

6 (canceled).

6  
7 (original). The system of claim 1, wherein said magnetic field source is a permanent magnet having a selected magnetic field direction and including a magnetic field drawn from the group of materials consisting of aluminum-nickel-cobalt, iron-cobalt, iron-samarium, permalloy and Mn-Zn ferrite.

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8 (original). The system of claim 1, wherein said magnetic field source is a permanent magnet having a selected direction that is oriented at a selected orientation angle relative to a selected switch direction associated with said switch, when said switch is in said first switch state.

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9 (original). The system of claim 1, wherein said field-activated magnetic switch is drawn from a group of switches consisting of a reed switch and a Hall effect switch.

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10 (original). The system of claim 1, wherein said field-activated switch has an activation direction for change of state of said switch, and at least one of said first magnetic field direction and said second magnetic field direction is chosen to be approximately perpendicular to a plane defined by said attachment direction and

the switch activation direction.

<sup>10</sup>  
~~11~~ (original). The system of claim 1, wherein said attachment mechanism is drawn from a group consisting of a bolt, a screw and a friction-generating nail, and said attachment direction is chosen to be approximately a longitudinal direction of a shaft of the bolt, the screw or the nail.

<sup>12</sup>  
~~12~~ (currently amended). A method for detecting unauthorized movement of a communications/meter device, the method comprising the steps of:

providing at least one device attachment mechanism, having a selected attachment direction, that attaches a communications/meter device to a selected attachment site;

providing a magnetic field source, associated with the attachment mechanism, that provides a first magnetic field with a first field direction and a second magnetic field with a second magnetic field direction when the attachment mechanism is in a first selected position and in a second selected position, respectively;

positioning a field-activated magnetic switch, positioned adjacent to the attachment mechanism and arranged so that, when the first magnetic field is applied to the switch, the switch is in a first switch state, and when the second magnetic field is applied to the switch, the switch is in a second switch state, distinct from the first switch state; and

providing an electrical current source, connected to the field-activated magnetic switch at a first selected location, that provides a current through the

[ Providing a switch sensor, connected to the magnetic switch, to sense the switch state of the switch ]

Generating a selected alarm signal when the switch when the switch is not in the first switch state. ]

switch;

providing an electrical current sensor, connected to the field-activated magnetic switch at a second selected location, that senses a level of current through the switch;

coupling an alarm to the electrical current sensor; and

generating a selected alarm signal by the alarm when the switch is not in the first switch state, upon the sensed level of current in the current sensor.

13 (original). The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of transmitting an alarm signal when said field-activated magnetic switch is not in said first switch state.

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cont.  
14 (original). The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of selecting said second position of said attachment mechanism from the group of positions consisting of: (i) rotation of said attachment mechanism about said attachment direction by at least a selected threshold angle, and (ii) translation of said attachment mechanism in said attachment direction by at least a threshold distance.

15 (original). The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of selecting said magnetic field source to provide, at said field-activated magnetic switch, a magnetic field with a projected field magnitude that is at least equal to a selected magnitude threshold.

Attorney Docket No.: 6013-002CPA3

7

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16 <sup>previously presented</sup> ~~(currently amended)~~. The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of selecting said attachment mechanism at said first position provides a magnetic field projected in a selected sensing direction, with a projected field magnitude that is ~~[[at least equal to]]~~ less than a selected magnetic field magnitude threshold.

NT.  
17 (canceled).

17  
~~18~~ (original). The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of selecting said magnetic field source to be a permanent magnet having a selected magnetic field direction and including a magnetic field drawn from the group of materials consisting of aluminum-nickel-cobalt, iron-cobalt, iron-samarium, permalloy and Mn-Zn ferrite.

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cont.  
18  
~~19~~ (original). The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of selecting said magnetic field source to be a permanent magnet having a selected direction that is oriented at a selected orientation angle relative to a selected switch direction associated with said switch, when said switch is in said first state.

20 (canceled).

19  
~~21~~ (original). The method of claim 12, wherein said field-activated switch has an activation direction for change of state of said switch, further comprising the step of choosing at least one of said first magnetic field direction and said second magnetic field direction to be approximately perpendicular to a plane defined by

Attorney Docket No.: 6013-002CPA3

8

said attachment direction and the switch activation direction.

N.T. <sup>20 previously presented</sup>  
~~22 (currently amended)~~. The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of selecting said attachment mechanism from a group consisting of a bolt, a screw and a friction-generating nail, and choosing said attachment direction to be approximately a longitudinal direction of a shaft of the bolt, the screw or the nail.

23-42 (canceled).

H1  
N.T. could. <sup>11 previously presented</sup>  
~~43 (new)~~. The system of claim 1, wherein said electrical current sensor senses at least one of a first level of said current, when said switch is in said first switch state, and a second level of said current, when said magnetic switch is in said second switch state.

N.T. <sup>21 previously presented</sup>  
~~44 (new)~~. The method of claim 12, further comprising sensing at least one of a first level of said current, when said magnetic switch is in said first switch state, and a second level of said current, when said magnetic switch in said second switch state.